

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A patient transport system for transporting a patient from a magnetic resonance imaging system to a second imaging system, the patient transport system comprising:

5 an elongated member having an upper surface configured to support a patient;

10 a first coupling mechanism coupled to the elongated member configured to removably couple the elongated member to the magnetic resonance imaging system; and

15 a second coupling mechanism coupled to the elongated member configured to removably couple the elongated member to a second imaging system.

20 2. The patient transport system of Claim 1, wherein the elongated member comprises a patient cradle and a table wherein the patient cradle rests on the table.

25 3. The patient transport system of Claim 2, wherein the first coupling mechanism is integral to the table and the second coupling mechanism is integral to the patient cradle.

4. The patient transport system of Claim 1, wherein the second imaging system is an X-ray imaging system having a pedestal, wherein the second coupling mechanism is configured to be removably coupled to the pedestal of the X-ray imaging system.

5. The patient transport system of Claim 4, wherein the elongated member has a structure suitable for supporting the weight of a human patient in a cantilevered fashion at the second coupling mechanism.

5 6. The patient transport system of Claim 1, wherein the first and second coupling mechanisms are on opposing ends of the elongated member.

7. The patient transport system of Claim 1, wherein the elongated member comprises kevlar.

10 8. The patient transport system of Claim 1, wherein the elongated member has an arcuately shaped cross-section.

15 9. A patient transport system for transporting a patient in a medical imaging environment, comprising an elongated patient support member having a first end opposite a second end, wherein the first end is configured to be coupled to a magnetic resonance imaging device and the second end is configured to be coupled to an X-ray imaging device.

10. The patient transport system of Claim 9, wherein the elongated patient support member is suitable for use in both a magnetic resonance imaging environment and an X-ray imaging environment.

20 11. The patient transport system of Claim 10, wherein the elongated patient support member is made at least partially of a material including kevlar.

25 12. The patient transport system of Claim 9, further comprising a plurality of wheels coupled to the elongated patient support member configured to roll the elongated patient support member along a floor.

13. The patient transport system of Claim 9, wherein the elongated patient support member comprises a table and a patient cradle resting on the table, wherein the table comprises a mounting surface configured to receive the patient cradle in a substantially fixed relationship, wherein the table includes a plurality of wheels configured to roll the elongated patient support member along a floor.

14. The patient transport system of Claim 13, further comprising a manually-actuated locking mechanism configured to couple the patient cradle to the table in a fixed relationship.

10 15. The patient transport system of Claim 9, wherein the elongated patient support member is configured to support a cantilevered human patient load at the second end.

15 16. A patient transport system for transporting a patient between two different medical imaging modalities, the patient transport system comprising:

a patient support surface comprising an end compatible with a coupling arrangement on an imaging system;

20 a table separable from the patient support surface and configured to receive the patient support surface and to move the patient support surface between different rooms of a building; and

25 a coupling device configured to couple the patient support surface to the table, wherein the coupling device comprises an actuator configured to disconnect the patient support surface from the table.

17. The patient transport system of Claim 16, wherein the table includes an end compatible with a coupling arrangement on a magnetic

resonance imaging system and the end is compatible with a coupling arrangement on an X-ray imaging system.

18. The patient transport system of Claim 17, wherein the patient support surface is suitable for use in both a magnetic resonance imaging environment and an X-ray imaging system.

19. The patient transport system of Claim 18, wherein the patient support surface is configured to support a cantilevered human patient load at the second end.

20. The patient transport system of Claim 16, wherein the table comprises wheels configured to move the table along a floor.

21. The patient transport system of Claim 16, wherein the actuator is actuated by a human operator.